IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps ~~of~~ of:

receiving input data;

increasing a number of data bits of said input data:

performing image processing on said data with the increased number of data bits, wherein said image processing includes enhancing an edge of said data with the increased number of data bits;

decreasing a number of the image-decreased data; and

providing data having a number of data bits substantially the same as said received input data.

2. (original) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

increasing the number of data bits of said input data by multiplying said input data by a constant value and adding an offset value to said input data, wherein a word length of said data with the increased number of data bits is larger than that of said input data.

3. (original) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of

decreasing the number of data bits of said image-processed data by subtracting an offset value from said image-processed data and dividing the result of the subtracting by a constant

value, wherein a word length of the data with the decreased number of data bits is smaller than that of said image-processed data.

4. (original) The image processing method of claim 2, further comprising the step of decreasing the number of data bits of said image-processed data by subtracting

an offset value from said image-processed data and dividing the result of the subtracting by a constant value, wherein a word length of the data with the decreased number of data bite is smaller than that of said image-processed data.